

Good Evening Committee Members

I'm Stephen F. Heringer, 5th of 6 generations of the Heringer family to farm Clarksburg soils. Many families in the Delta have farmed for multiple generations and over the years have grown a large variety of field and row crops. We have had to evolve and adapt our operations in order to maintain economic viability to insure the sustainability of the **family farm** for future generations. .

During the last four decades, growers have planted over 17,000 acres of our upper Delta region into premium wine grapes. Our crops have proliferated in quality and yield and the Clarksburg Delta has earned the reputation of being the "Banana Belt" for premium wine grapes among California's wineries. We have invested heavily in vineyards which have a life expectancy of 25 to 30 years and can stay economically viable for up to a century.

In 2005 the UC Cooperative Extension published costs to establish and produce wine grapes in our region. The study documents the requirement of in excess of \$16,000 per acre to develop a vineyard. During the past 3 years of dramatically increasing steel, vine, labor, and fuel costs, that investment will easily be in excess of \$20,000 per acre today. That equates to a total investment in vineyards and infrastructure alone exceeding \$340 Million dollars in District 17, the Upper Delta region.

The California Association of Winegrape Growers completed an economic impact study last year of California wine and grape grower's contribution to the State and US economy. Extrapolating those economic impacts to just our 17,000 acres of wine grapes, we create in excess of 11,000 full time equivalent jobs in California and an additional 13,500 jobs nationwide. This generates \$357 million in California wages and almost \$900 million in wages throughout the USA. Taxes generated from our winegrape acres exceed \$107 million to the State of California and an additional \$64 million nationally. In excess of 700,000 visitors with tourism expenditures exceeding \$71 million are attributable to our 17,000 acres of grapes.

Our Yolo County Supervisors have partnered with us to keep our unique upper Delta area agricultural. We adapted sustainability generations ago to assure the farming and enjoyment of our Delta region for the benefit of all of the people of our Great State. We will not now, stand by idly, as the objects of an environmental experiment based on presumptions. We will, however, stand with you to fully utilize existing flood control infrastructure such as the Yolo Bypass to assure better flood protection for the Sacramento area.

Stephen F. Heringer
916-744-1094